

16594/5.6H//
Passaic R/NJ//
September 4, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUEST

Mr. Sanjeev Varghese, P.E.PP
County Engineer
County of Essex/Hudson Joint Bridges
Department of Public Works
900 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Dear Mr. Varghese:

This is in reference to the Bridge Street Bridge that sustained gear damage on 31 August 2013. Since then the bridge has been unable to open for marine traffic.

On 3 September 2013 Mr. Wally Wolfe e-mailed to this office a vague description of the gear problem and the fact that the bridge will unable to open. Mr. Wolfe indicated that your office is in the process of obtaining estimates for repairs. Estimated time of repairs is thirty days. This is unacceptable.

You are required to provide this office with a definitive description of the action you have taken and are taking, why the bridge cannot open, and if it cannot, your plan to accommodate marine traffic until the bridge is operational.

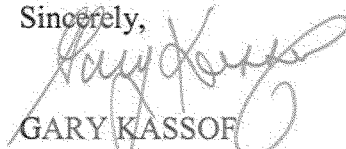
Critical marine movements, particularly related to the nearby Lower Passaic dredging project, have been delayed due to inability to get passage through the Bridge Street Bridge. It is necessary that if permanent repairs cannot be completed in the short term a temporary plan must be implemented to provide bridge openings or leave the bridge in the open position for critical marine transits. Further, the work effort to restore the bridge to operational condition must be maximized.

Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations 117.36(c) requires that repairs to drawbridges due to emergency closures must be performed with all due speed in order to return the drawbridge to operation as soon as possible. Without further information we may consider County of Essex/Hudson Joint Bridges in violation of the above regulation and therefore subject to imposition of a civil penalty of \$25,000.00 per day with each day considered a new violation.

Therefore, it is required that within 2 days receipt of this letter this office be provided with the required information above and your plan and schedule for restoring the bridge to operation.

Please contact me or Joe Arca of this office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



GARY KASSOFF

Bridge Program Manager

First Coast Guard District

By direction of the District Commander

Copy: Commander-SECNY - Waterway Oversight Branch

Mr. Luis Rodriguez, Hudson/Essex joint Bridges

Mr. Wally Wolfe, Hudson/Essex joint Bridges